

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependencies of claims 3 and 4, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

A copy of the amended portion of the claims with changes marked therein is attached and entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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December 13, 2001

Claims

1. Equipment for continuous, horizontal casting of metal, in particular aluminium, the equipment including an insulated reservoir or pool (2), which is designed to contain liquid metal, and a releasably provided mould (3), which can be removed from the pool (2), with an insulating plate (19) with holes (25, 26) which communicate with the mould, the mould (3) including a preferably circular mould cavity (17) with a wall (12, 13) of permeable material for the supply of oil and/or gas, which wall provides primary cooling to the metal being cast and at least one slit or nozzles (16) arranged along the circumference of the cavity for the direct supply of coolant, providing secondary cooling at the metal,

characterised in that the primary cooling is so designed that it may be increased or reduced.

2. Equipment according to claim 1,

characterised in that the insulating plate (19) is easily replaceable whereby it is provided with a protrusion (24) extending along the wall (12,13) of the cavity (17) and whereby the surface of and subsequently the cooling effect may be reduced or increased depending on the length of the protrusion (24).

(Amended)
3. Equipment according to claims 1 and 2,

characterised in that the mould housing (8) is made of steel.

(Amended)
4. Equipment according to claims 1-3,

characterised in that the mould housing includes two parts (8, 9) with an intermediate cooling channel (14) where a thermally insulating annular plate (28) is arranged against the first part (8) which surrounds the permeable material (12, 13) in the cavity (17) in order to reduce the thermal transfer to the cavity.

5. Equipment according to claim 4,

characterised in that the insulating plate (28) is exchangeable and may have different thickness.

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